



Australia's International Development Contractors Community

BOARD MEETING – FRIDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2020

MINUTES

1. Welcome, overview, apologies

Present: Therese Faulkner, Richard Moore, Bernadette Whitelum, Nicky Thatcher, Jo Choe

Apologies: Kris Kathiravel, Stuart Schaefer

2. Approval of previous minutes

Minutes deemed to be approved once Directors read and make any amendments. Noted error in previous list of large member organisations – Adam Smith International was registered as a small member organisation in first year of IDCC, but large member organisation in second year.

3. Reports

(i) Financial Report

Bank balance = 54,177.48CR

Still owed 3,980.18 from fraudulent cheque presented to the St George account

(ii) Secretariat Report (includes membership update)

New memberships – anticipating 4 x individual membership fees to be paid = \$880

4. Update from Research and Policy Officer (Therese presented in Kris's absence)

Website – Jacks Labs renamed DiscoveryDigital. Still working on update of IDCC website and 'member only' access

Aid Policy Review Submission – Submitted Friday 14 Feb. Richard noted this was not uploaded onto DFAT's website as at today's meeting

Management Fee Mythbusting Slideshow – Therese still needs to edit

Dataset on Contractors vs NGOs vs Multilats – Kris awaiting input from Whitelum Group on flows from Contractors to NGOs to strengthen this paper – Bernadette is following up.

5. Current Issues

Meeting with CEOs

Agree to arrange meeting with large member organization CEOs next week to put forward three scenarios for navigating the future of the IDCC, and obtain a consensus on whether to:

- Keep the IDCC going as it is, noting that the significant limitations in our ability to achieve results due to our low resource base;
- Increase the resourcing of the IDCC to modestly increase its reach, outputs, and impact by having a director devoting one day a week solely to IDCC work, supported by the existing policy officer, with a commensurate increase in fees;
- Significantly increase the resourcing of the IDCC by recruiting a CEO (3 days per week), supported by the existing policy officer, which would enable the IDCC to step-up its representation and advocacy including lobbying DFAT and other relevant government departments at senior levels; lobbying parliamentarians; building networks with potential champions and other representative bodies that could lobby for the aid program (e.g. NFF); and undertaking targeted media and communications. This would see a commensurate increase in fees.

Meeting with Alex Hawke

Confirmed for Wed 25 March. Jo, Therese and Stuart to attend.

Media

The Board noted that ACFID had responded to a story published in The Australian, 'Asia aid slashed in shift to Pacific', on 18 February. Agreed that we need to be discerning about how and when we respond to the media; grateful to ACFID for sharing their media releases with us.

ARF

Transition from ARF to non-ARF will be challenging for many of our members. Agreed we need to stay in close communication with DFAT and our members on this.

6. Other Business

Next Member Forum

20 April 2020 in Brisbane, with possible Special General Meeting prior, depending on outcome of discussion with CEOs next week.

Therese's arrangements

Therese advised the Board that she had resigned from Coffey, effective 28 February 2020, and would be taking a break before commencing part-time work with another organisation in April. She advised that she will continue in her role as a Director of the IDCC Board, and will continue in the position of Chair for now.

7. Outstanding actions from previous minutes – to carry over to next meeting

Feedback on first tranche of procurement reforms – overdue, but DFAT are comfortable with receiving feedback whenever we are ready to provide.

RDI - Research for Development Impact Network – provide IDCC nominees to participate in the voluntary advisory group for a new ethics project.

Austrade - have them participate in webinar and/or present at our next member forum.

Fraud Webinar(s) – arrange webinar for DFAT’s Fraud team

New Member Drinks – arrange drinks to coincide with DFAT’s practitioner ‘masterclass’ on Friday 20 March - informal gathering at QT Hotel on the evening of 19 March, where attendees can buy their own drinks, and hear from the IDCC Board.

Company Secretary - need to nominate someone to replace Sue Hart as Company Secretary.